



# NEWS RELEASE

## **City of Goodman Receives \$1,682,000 for Water System Improvements**

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$1,682,000 to Goodman during a ceremony held on March 7, 2005, at the City Hall. A user base of 475 residents and businesses will benefit from the installation of new main and service lines. The City will maintain the use of the existing wells and water storage tanks. Current lines are undersized which relates to low pressures across a substantial portion of the City which can allow backflow and contamination of the entire system. The improvements will provide the City with adequate pressures to ensure delivery of potable water and ensure the fire department with sufficient pressure preventing the possibility of collapsed water lines.

The City has been on an aggressive program to replace meters and mains as they could. They have recently won approval from the residents of the City to attempt the large scale proposal, as evidenced by the approval of a Bond Issue for the purpose of replacing the majority of the water system. The new system, with an estimated cost of \$2,182,000, is being funded through a partnership effort. Rural Development (RD) Water and Waste Program loan funds in the amount of \$1,150,000, RD grant funds of \$532,000, and Community Development Block Grant funds of \$500,000 from the Missouri Department of Economic Development will be used to finance the project.

Mayor Rowdy Cooper stated, "The Board and I are thankful to Senator Bond, Senator Talent, U.S. Representative Roy Blunt, State Representative Kevin Wilson, USDA Rural Development, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development for their help in making this project come to pass. Without funding approved by the Citizens in the selling of the \$1,150,000.00 in bonds, the grants from USDA Rural Development and the Missouri Department of Economic Development this project would not have been possible. The Citizens of Goodman look forward to a safer existence because of larger main lines, which include the installation of many new fire plugs. They know that their fire protection will be enhanced because of better water pressure due to the larger water lines. New meters and new service lines to each home will give better service and allow the city to alleviate a water loss problem that has existed for several years. I know that I speak for myself, the Board and all of the Citizens when I say that we have been looking forward to the start of this project and its successful completion."

Project Engineer, Al Reiss of Reiss & Goodness Engineers of Wichita, Kansas, provided the design as well as construction oversight for the project. Lynnsen, Inc., of Poplar Bluff and Maguire Iron, Inc., are the General Contractors. The Community Development Block Grant Coordinator is Sue Bacorn, Bacorn Enterprises LLC, based in Springfield, Missouri.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects."

“Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work making this project a reality, said Branum. “This project mirrors President Bush’s initiatives for rural America and exemplify the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities”.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to [bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov](mailto:bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov).

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**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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